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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, we trust You to guide our Nation and world. Permit us to feel Your nearness and to know the inspiration of Your presence. May our closeness to you help us to choose truth over falsehood, love over hate, and good over evil.

Lord, move among our lawmakers, instructing, lifting, and guiding them so that whatever they do in word or deed they will glorify You. Show our Senators what needs to be done and give them the courage and wisdom to do Your will.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here on the floor yesterday, I called on America's European allies, including Germany, to do more to equip Ukraine with long-requested tanks, not just to resist Russian aggression but to defeat it.

I have consistently called on the Biden administration to be more proactive and to lead by example in delivering lethal aid, like the long-range weapons, with a greater sense of urgency.

I was happy to learn yesterday and this morning that, indeed, both the White House and their counterparts in Germany are finally moving forward with these overdue steps.

Germany has announced it will supply Ukraine with an initial 14 Leopard 2 tanks, and the Biden administration is expected to send at least 30 M1 Abrams tanks as well. Good news.

Now that Berlin has taken this step, I hope and expect that Germany and other European countries with tanks in their inventory will move expeditiously to send them to Ukraine.

Modern main battle tanks will provide highly maneuverable armored firepower that will help Ukraine liberate territory and keep pressure on the Russian aggressors, but, as I have said repeatedly, time is of the essence.

Of course, as we rush these long-overdue capabilities to Ukraine, the West's work is far from over. These drawdowns of Western arsenals must also prompt serious work to expand the capacity of our defense industrial base. The Biden administration's efforts on this front are overdue but important, and I hope more of our allies will follow through by moving quickly to put

critical munitions and weapons systems under contract and expanding each of their industrial capacities.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, here are just a few scenes from across our country in the last few weeks.

Thirty people were shot in Chicago this past weekend alone. That is up from 21 the weekend before.

In Philadelphia, police are investigating a carjacking spree that is reportedly being carried out by armed juveniles:

They put a gun to my head and they took the van. [And] I haven't found it back again.

Out in San Francisco, just one neighborhood has seen a beating, an attempted robbery, a 2-year-old suffering fentanyl poisoning after playing in the park, and 17 car windows smashed—all on one street, all on one night.

Streets, neighborhoods, and cities across our country are being swamped—literally, swamped—by a level of crime that is unsafe, uncivilized, and totally unacceptable.

My hometown of Louisville, KY, saw 10 homicides in just the first 10 days of 2023, and already 5 more since then—the latest additions to the list of 500-plus homicides we have seen since the start of this violent crime wave 3 years ago.

As Louisville's mayor said a few weeks ago, "these are not just numbers; these are people."

Many of the individuals our city lost were young, just starting out their careers and families. Far too many were children, including a 14-year-old boy we lost just 10 days ago.

Of course, for every victim who lost their life to violent crime, there are even more who have been injured or traumatized or literally forced to live in fear. As one resident said, "I got to lock my doors all the time . . . I'm worried about my children going outside. It's not fair."

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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